

# NORTH CAROLINA TRUCK GROWERS.

## Profitable Operations in Vegetables and Fruit by Truckers Association This Year.

At the annual session last month of the East Carolina Truck and Fruit Growers' Association, Mr. H. T. Baughman, business agent of the Association, reported as follows:

"The total acreage planted in strawberries in 1904 was 6,835 acres, against 6,474 acres in 1903. The total number of crates shipped in 1904 was 548,709, against 493,734 in 1903. There was an increase in the general average per acre also. In 1904 the average was 80 crates to the acre and in 1903 77 crates. The net increase in the number of crates over 1903 was 54,985, or 165 cars.

"The strawberry distribution this season was even superior to that of last year, and embraced many new markets. At no time was there an oversupply in any one market, although our daily shipments for quite a period were something almost startling. Take the memorable 10th of May, when 214 refrigerator cars of strawberries passed through Rocky Mount. Forty went to New York, 29 to Boston, 21 to Philadelphia, 20 to Pittsburg, 16 to Buffalo, 9 to Newark, 7 to Providence, 6 to Cleveland and the balance, from one to five cars each, to New England, interior New York, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Western and Canadian markets. In no instance was any one market glutted. This held good also on other days, when 141, 110, 131, 136, 109 and 100 refrigerator cars, respectively, were forwarded from South Rocky Mount. That the daily information sent out in form of bulletins, telegrams, telephones and letters to the various shipping and receiving points is the key-note to this distribution is conceded by all, without which chaos and disaster would attend our efforts in disposing of our crops.

"The executive committee, with its usual good judgment in placing every safeguard around the interests of our growers, authorized me to appoint agents of the Association in New York, Pittsburg and Richmond to look after these interests and report daily to me at South Rocky Mount as to movement, delivery and condition of berries and vegetables on arrival in the markets to which they were consigned. The reports of these agents were promptly made each day, and there is no doubt but that their presence in these markets contributed to the prompt deliveries and betterment of the service in every particular. The railroad and commission men with whom I have corresponded in this matter one and all agree that these agents served the purpose for which they were appointed and were a great benefit to the transportation companies, the receivers, and, we know, to our Association. I have had our agents at each point make a general report of the season's business coming under their management.

"The shipment of products last winter and this spring amounted ap-

proximately to peas, radishes and other vegetables, 126,570 packages; dewberries, 11,443 crates; Irish potatoes, 102,018 barrels and barrel crates; cantaloupes, 90,916 packages; total packages, 399,504.

"From information in hand and from reports sent in to me from the various growers in each section the average gross price of strawberries to the growers was \$2 per crate. There were shipped 548,709 crates, bringing to this section from strawberries alone the handsome sum of \$1,097,418. Of this amount fully 65 per cent was paid to the growers at the various stations in cash by buyers at home and from abroad.

"From information furnished me by the truckers of Wilmington and other points and from my knowledge of the markets at the time of shipping, the gross price to the growers on vegetables, namely, lettuce, beans, peas, etc., potatoes and cantaloupes, was about as follows: Lettuce, 80,000 packages, \$1.50 per package, \$120,000; beans, peas and other vegetables, 126,570 packages, \$1 per package, \$126,570; dewberries, 11,443 packages or crates, \$2 per crate, \$22,886; Irish potatoes, 102,018 barrels, \$2.50 per barrel, \$255,045; cantaloupes, 90,316 packages, \$1.50 per package, \$136,374. Total, \$660,875. Grand total strawberries and truck, \$1,758,293.

"The increase in both the strawberry and vegetable output this season, coupled with the good prices obtained, has been very gratifying to our people and encourages them to greater efforts in the future.

"From this great strawberry and trucking industry alone the farmers of Eastern Carolina have realized the sum of \$1,758,293, and they are to be congratulated on the system and organization under which they work and which makes it possible to successfully market their crops, be they small or large.

"The business of the season as a whole has been a profitable one and the final result satisfactory."

The officers of the Association are: President, W. L. Hill, Warsaw; vice-president, W. E. Springer, Wilmington; secretary, H. T. Baughman, Wilmington; treasurer, S. H. Strange, Fayetteville; executive committee, W. L. Hill, chairman; W. E. Springer, secretary; W. E. Thigpen, J. A. Brown, J. A. Westbrook and J. S. Westbrook.

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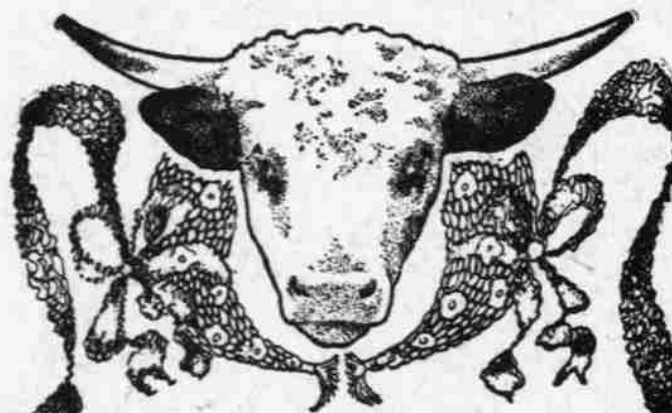
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